



**BBSRC** Doctoral  
Training Partnerships



**Durham**  
University



UNIVERSITY OF  
**LIVERPOOL**



**Newcastle**  
University

# Professional Internships for PhD Students

AN INTRODUCTION

# PIPS Engagement Event

## Newcastle / Liverpool / Durham



### **Dr Celia Caulcott,**

**BBSRC Director of Innovation and Skills** said,

“Investing in the training of PhD students is one of the most important things that BBSRC does. We have a serious responsibility to ensure that we are supporting training that produces bioscientists with the specific research expertise and skills that industry and academia require, but we also must make sure that students are getting the best broad-based training possible.”

“I strongly believe that the decision to include Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS) within the Doctoral Training Partnership programme will provide students with an opportunity for professional skills development and will enable them to develop a broader understanding of how their research training can have an impact in the wider economy and society, which will result in real benefits for the student, RO and host organisation.”

“To demonstrate our commitment to PIPS we [BBSRC] will offer a number of interns at our Swindon Office.”

## PIPS: The Newcastle, Liverpool and Durham Partnership Approach

Professional Internships for PhD students (PIPS) offer a fantastic opportunity for your professional development. The experience of a novel working environment and the demands of a different role can give a new perspective that can improve working practices and inform your career goals. To maximise the potential of an internship you should recognise the part such an opportunity can play in your own development. The partnership does not want to be prescriptive in the timing or in the nature of your internship; this would devalue the decision making, that is an essential part of the professionalism we hope to engender. Each institution has staff in place to offer advice and provide contacts to help you make an informed decision about your internship. We hope you will work with your supervisors and the contacts provided to find an internship project that will give you an experience you are able to positively reflect on. In this initial meeting we hope that you will discover a little about yourself and the cohort you are part of. Armed with this information, we hope that you can start to consider the sort of roles and host organisations that would provide the most valuable experience for you. Following the completion of your internship we would like you to consider what you have achieved and how this experience has influenced you. The time spent in preparation and in reflection is a vital part of the PIPS process and should be considered within the timing of an internship. Ultimately, a positive experience in broadening your horizons is of much greater significance than meeting any rigid criteria we could set. Over the coming year, we hope to hear from you regarding exactly what you want from your internship. We aim to do all we can to support you.

### **Dr Richy Hetherington**

Postgraduate Development, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle

# Our Experience of Internships

Pilot schemes at Newcastle University indicated that research students prefer to be involved in the organisation of their own internships. By offering support for students they were able to find internship positions in Australia, California and in a variety of organisations in the UK.

**Ewan Young** (right), a BBSRC DTP cohort one student based at Liverpool has completed an internship with Croda, an international chemical company with a branch in Widnes, Cheshire. Ewan will explain how he found the differences between industry and academia at the event.



**Dr Gillian Pepper**, a former PhD student in Newcastle University's Institute of Neuroscience recently completed an internship with Newcastle City Council following the submission of her PhD thesis. Gillian will be going back into academic research with a much greater insight of how research in the public sector works.



**Victoria West** (left), a DTP cohort two student really made the most of the PIPS opportunity with a trip to Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage in Zambia. Working as a chimpanzee welfare and rehabilitation intern allowed Victoria to apply the theoretical knowledge gained from academic research into practical situations, directly improving the management of animals in captivity. This is an excellent example of how it is possible for an internship to relate to a students' research work whilst moving them beyond the academic environment.



**Greg Pridgeon** (left), a Durham Univeisty DTP student in the second cohort completed his internship with the Newcastle Univeristy Research and Enterprises Services team. Greg made a very favourable impression with the RES team and Greg and Margaret Lawlor from the RES team will be around to talk about how this internship went.

**Adam Crawshaw**, a cohort one DTP student at Newcastle has recently completed his PIPS with Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron science facility, located at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire. This allowed Adam to gain experience of working in broad multidisciplinary team. Adam will present about what he found to be a very positive experience.

# Detailed Programme

## Monday 26th January

Grainger Suite, International Centre for Life

**12:00 - 13:00 Lunch and Welcome**

**13:00 - 15:00 Cohort Building with Samantha Aspinall and Lowry McComb**

The BBSRC has funded this cohort of students across the universities of Durham, Liverpool and Newcastle. One of the key ideas of this type of funding is to build networks of people who will develop ideas together to strengthen the scientific community. This session will start this process. There will be group activities, skills analysis, and preparation for PIPS.

Activities include:

- Exploring skills of researchers
- Developing transferable skills
- Building teams
- Exploring communication styles
- Preparing for your PIPS
- Setting objectives
- Planning your profile

**15:30 - 16:00 Tea**

**16:00 - 17:00 Cohort Building with Samantha Aspinall and Lowry McComb**

**17:00 - 17:15 Address by Professor John Kirby, Dean of Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University**

**17:15 - 19:00 Hotel check in and down time**

**19:00 - 20:00 Meet up and drinks at Lane 7**

**20:00 - 21:00 Dinner at Lane 7**

**21:00 - not too late Bowling and Glow Pong at Lane 7**

## Funding and Reporting

The partnership is keen that you can get the internship experience that works well for you. The only stipulation is that the internship is outside of academic research and your supervisor agrees to you taking part so anything should be possible. Since internships are scheduled to take place within the period of your studentship normal living expenses should be covered by your stipend. Where an internship involves travel and accommodation costs bursaries are available to help students cover these costs. Initially an approach should be made to the host organisation to assist with these expenses. You will be operating at a high level and should be of value to the host organisation. It is only reasonable that they should expect to reimburse your expenses. If the host will cover all of the costs, then the only paperwork needed is that of the host organisation. If the host cannot cover these expenses or will only cover part of the cost, bursaries will be awarded on a competitive basis.

To apply for a bursary go to: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/fms/dtp/pips/PIPsBursary.htm>

# Tuesday 27th January

Jury's Inn Hotel, Scotswood Road, Newcastle upon Tyne

**08:00 - 09:00** Breakfast and hotel check out (bags can be stored)

**09:00 - 10:00** How the PIPS work and where to find an internship  
with Richy Hetherington and Diane Cresswell

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**10:00 - 11:00** Four previous interns talk about their experience

**10:00 - 10:15** Adam Crawshaw, Diamond Light Source, Oxfordshire

**10:15 - 10:30** Gillian Pepper, Newcastle City Council, Tyne and Wear

**10:30 - 10:45** Ewan Young, Croda, Cheshire

**10:45 - 11:00** Greg Pridgeon, Research and Enterprise Services, Newcastle University

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**11:00 - 11:15** Tea and open discussion of intern experience

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**11:15 - 13:15** Presentations from prospective internship hosts

**11:15 - 11:30** Deborah Hogg, Elanco

**11:30 - 11:45** Vivien Kent, Durham Wildlife Trust

**11:45 - 12:00** Garry Thompson and Victoria Reid, Leica Biosystems

**12:00 - 12:15** Marion Taligault Owens, Novartis

**12:15 - 12:30** Nick Allenby, Demuris

**12:30 - 12:45** Daniel Lloyd, Safe Newcastle (Newcastle City Council)

**12:45 - 13:00** Colin Tristram, HistoCyte Laboratories Ltd

**13:00 - 13:15** Elizabeth Gemmell, PHMR Associates

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**13:15 - 13:45** Lunch

**13:45 - 15:00** Small group and one to one discussion with Internship hosts and university facilitators

**15:00** Close

We will try to keep the paperwork to a minimum but your University will need to know where you are. For Newcastle Students you will need to complete an outside study form <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/progress/staff-resources/pg-research/PGRchangeirc.htm>

Once you have completed an internship, the BBSRC and the local DTP management team will want to know how it went. We would like to know how you chose your internship, what the process of getting it was like and how it met with your expectations. Ideally, we would suggest you log your activities either through an ePortfolio, a blog or a diary to help you recount what went well and any problems you may have encountered.

Reporting forms and information: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/fms/dtp/pips/>

# Prospective Internship Hosts

**Deborah Hogg** is the Process Development group leader in Technical Services/Manufacturing Support (TS/MS) at **Elanco**, Liverpool. Elanco is a global, innovation-driven company that develops and markets products to improve animal health and protein production in more than 75 countries. Elanco employs more than 2,300 people worldwide, with offices in more than 40 countries, and is a division of Eli Lilly and Company, a leading global pharmaceutical corporation.



**Dr Vivien Kent** is Conservation Officer at **Durham Wildlife Trust** undertaking a variety of projects that include wildlife surveys/research, habitat creation and restoration, GIS mapping and engaging the community with their environment and wildlife. Durham Wildlife Trust is a charity whose purpose is to protect wildlife and promote nature conservation across County Durham, the City of Sunderland and the Boroughs of Gateshead, South Tyneside and Darlington.

**Garry Thompson & Victoria Reid** are the Human Resources Business Partner and R&D Leader at **Leica Biosystems**. Leica Biosystems are part of the large multinational company Danaher. Their Newcastle site is focused on researching, developing, manufacturing, and distributing clinical diagnostic reagents to pathology laboratories.



**Marion Taligault Owens** is the Primary Validation Leader at **Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics**. Novartis are a world leader in vaccine development with a site at Speke Liverpool.

**Lizzie Gemmell** is a life sciences research analyst at **PHMR**. PHMR provide specialist advice on health economics and pricing. Providing health technology companies the information that will support market preparation and reimbursement.



**Nick Allenby** is the Principal Scientist at **Demuris**. Demuris is an antibiotic discovery company with unique and world leading expertise in key technologies of genome engineering, natural product sourcing and target-based screening.

**Daniel Lloyd** is Principal Analyst at Newcastle Council's **Safe Newcastle Unit**. The aim of this unit is to create a safe Newcastle by tackling crime, alcohol, drugs, anti-social behaviour and their impact. By working together we will develop effective, sustainable solutions to local concerns, improve confidence and build stronger communities.



**Colin Tristram** is the Co-founder of **HistoCyte Laboratories Ltd**. This innovative company are developing the HistoCyte™ range of cellular analyte controls for use in immunohistochemistry, in-situ hybridisation and other molecular techniques.

# Providing support



**Dr Richy Hetherington** is responsible for postgraduate development in Newcastle's Faculty of Medical Sciences. Richy will be a key contact for Newcastle students as they consider internship positions and is the co-ordinator for the PIPS event. After completing a doctorate in Evolutionary Genetics at Imperial College London Richy worked in the NHS and spent several years working in industrial bioscience.



**Dr Lorna Dargan** is a Careers Adviser at Newcastle University, and predominantly works with PhD students and contract research staff. She previously worked as a Research Associate in the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at Newcastle University, analysing urban and rural regeneration policy. Lorna will be a key contact for students wanting to consider their options for both their internships and future careers.



**Dr Lowry McComb** is the Director of Researcher Development at Durham University where he is responsible for the generic skills training for all postgraduate research students. He continues to work one day per week in the Physics Department, teaching and researching in very high energy gamma ray astronomy. He is a member of a large European collaboration which operates an array of gamma ray telescopes in Namibia in south west Africa and is involved in a global consortium (of approximately 1000 scientists) to build the next generation of gamma ray telescopes.



**Ms Clare Martindale** is the Placement Officer for Science & Engineering at the University of Liverpool. Based within the Careers & Employability Service, she is a key contact for students considering their internship options and throughout the application process.



**Dr Diane Cresswell** is the Executive Director for Business Development at Bionow. Bionow is a not for profit membership organisation for the biomedical/life-sciences industry in the North of England and supports business growth, competitiveness and innovation. Our membership base includes start-ups and early stage firms as well as established growth-oriented companies. Bionow's membership offering focuses upon the specific needs of firms at their different stages of development, including dedicated business support programmes, shared procurement schemes with significant cost savings, exclusive insurance benefits, recruitment and training services, local and national events and access to a vibrant network of businesses. For more information, visit [www.bionow.co.uk](http://www.bionow.co.uk)



**Ms Samantha Aspinall** is based at Leeds University but works extensively across the HE sector working with academics, research staff and research students focusing on their professional development needs. Specialising in facilitating interdisciplinary collaborations and working with people on career path development. Samantha has recently been appointed to the BBSRC Bioscience Skills and Careers Strategy Panel responsible for developing and maintaining policies to support the supply of trained people in the biosciences.

# Event Programme in brief

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- 15:30 - 16:00** Tea
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- 08:00 - 09:00** Breakfast and hotel check out
- 09:00 - 10:00** Introduction (Richy Hetherington)
- 10:00 - 11:00** Previous interns talk about their experience
- 11:00 - 11:15** Tea
- 11:15 - 13:15** Presentations from prospective internship hosts
- 13:15 - 13:45** Lunch
- 13:45 - 15:00** Small group and one to one discussion with Internship hosts and university facilitators
- 15:00** Close

### Contact information

All Initial enquiries to:  
**Dr Richy Hetherington**  
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Faculty of Medical Science  
Newcastle University

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